

# JANUARY 2023 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Programs meet at the Houghton's Pond Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may cancel programs. To confirm or for more information call (857) 208-8498. Please follow all current COVID guidelines. Visit [Mass.gov/COVID](https://www.mass.gov/covid).

Tuesdays,  
January 3, 10,  
17, 24 & 31

## NATURE'S CLASSROOM, 10:00 am—11:00 am

On Tuesday mornings, learn all about the natural side of Blue Hills Reservation. For families and curious adults.

### January 3, 17 & 31—Animal Detectives

Animal tracks tell the story of wildlife in the forest—where they go, what they eat, and what's trying to eat them. Learn how to tell what these animals are up to when no one is around.

### January 10 & 24— A Murder Most Fowl

Crows are remarkably social and intelligent animals. These clever birds have long been a source of fascination and lore. See how different cultures have viewed crows throughout history and how these myths are often supported by the newest science.

Tuesdays,  
January 3, 10,  
17, 24 & 31

## EXPLORING BLUE HILLS, 2:30 pm—4:00 pm

On Tuesday afternoons, explore the lesser seen parts of Blue Hills Reservation. For families and curious adults.

### January 3, 17 & 31—Burnt Hill Path

Explore the hidden trails behind Houghton's Pond. About a 2.5-mile easy/moderate hike. Meet at the Visitor Center.

### January 10 & 24—Little Blue Hill

Explore the western-most hill in the Blue Hills, on a gentle hike to the top of Little Blue. About a 2.5-mile easy/moderate hike. Meets at parking lot at 2991 MA-138 in Canton.

Wednesdays,  
January 11 &  
25

## GREAT BLUE YONDER HIKE, 2:00 pm—4:00 pm

Meets at Trailside Museum Parking Lot at 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton

Join us on a moderate hike to the highest point in MA south of Boston and enjoy the majestic views from the top of Great Blue Hill. Suitable for adults with hiking experience. Inclement weather or icy trails may cancel; please call ahead to confirm.

Thursdays,  
January 5, 12,  
19, & 26

## HISTORY IN THE HILLS, 9:00 am—10:30 am

On Thursday mornings, learn about the history of the Blue Hills Reservation. Accessible lectures at the Visitor Center. For adults and children over 12 years.

### January 5 & 19— Colonial Farmers

Farming in these rocky hills was not easy. Learn how colonial farmers dealt with the challenges and changed the landscape in their quest to make a new home.

### January 12 & 26— First People of the Hills

What was life like in these hills before Europeans arrived? How did the First Peoples here live? We will respectfully explore the lives, culture and practices of the Massachusett people, before and after, European contact.

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# JANUARY 2023 PROGRAMS

## PROGRAMS CONTINUED

- Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19 & 26**     **WINTER WONDERS SERIES, 3:00 pm—4:00 pm**  
Join us to experience the winter wonders of the Blue Hills!
- January 5 & 12— Birdsong Solstice:** Come see (and hear!) the hardy winter birds of the Blue Hills, from the bright red cardinals to the squawking blue jays to the black-capped chickadees and their tell-tale songs. All ages.
- January 19 & 26— Evergreen Winter Walk:** The plants of Massachusetts have adapted to hard New England winters, and some thrive in it, like the evergreen plants and trees of the Blue Hills we will discover on this all-ages program.
- Fridays, January 6, 13, 20 & 27**     **KIDLEIDOSCOPE, 10:00 am—11:00 am**  
Join us for a nature craft and nature facts! Each week we will feature a different nature theme and a craft on that theme. Suitable for ages 4-10 with an adult.
- Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28**     **FAMILY NATURE EXPLORATION, 10:00 am—11:00 am**  
On Saturday mornings, explore what nature has to offer in the Blue Hills Reservation. For families and curious adults.
- January 7 & 21—The Racoon: A Thief in the Night**  
Raccoons are more than dumpster divers, they are survivors. Raccoons have long lived alongside humans. Because of some remarkable adaptations, they now thrive in the modern world.
- January 14 & 28— Talking Trees**  
The story of the forest is told in its trees. They are living beings and have strange and fascinating ways to communicate with one another. Learn what these silent giants can tell us if we know how to listen.
- Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21 & 28**     **NICE & EASY HIKES, 1:00 pm—2:30 pm**  
Looking to get outdoors and take a gentle, guided hike in the beautiful Blue Hills? Join us for our weekly series of leisurely paced nature hikes (1.5-3 miles long). Learn about nature at your own pace and make some friends along the way. All ages.

## SPECIAL HIKE

- Saturday, January 21**     **SE MASSACHUSETTS ADULT WALKING CLUB HIKE, 2:00 pm—3:30 pm**  
Easy 3.25-mile St. Moritz Green Dot Hike. Meets at the Shea Rink Parking Lot at 651 Willard Street in Quincy. Bring drinking water and wear sturdy winter hiking boots and clothes. If weather or trail conditions are questionable, please call (617) 698-1802 to confirm.

